IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A process for preparing at least one olefin having from 8 to 12 carbon atoms from at least one olefin having from 4 to 6 carbon atoms by means of a four-stage synthesis, which comprises

a) hydroformylating at least one starting olefin in the first process step,

b) hydrogenating the at least one aldehyde obtained in the first step a) to form the corresponding alcohol,

c) preparing at least one 1-olefin by elimination of water from the at least one alcohol obtained in the second process step b) and

d) obtaining at least one olefin by metathesis with elimination of ethylene from the at least one 1-olefin(s) obtained in the third process step c).

Claim 2 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1,

wherein a mixture of olefins having from 4 to 6 carbon atoms is used and a mixture of olefins having from 8 to 12 carbon atoms is obtained.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1 [[or 2]],

wherein a nickel, copper, copper/nickel, copper/chromium, copper/chromium/nickel, zinc/chromium, nickel/molybdenum catalyst is used as catalyst in the second process step b).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in [[at least one of claims 1 to 3]] claim 1,

wherein the elimination of water in the third process step c) is carried out continuously over a solid catalyst which consists formally of aluminum oxide and barium oxide.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in [[at least one of claims 1 to 4]] claim 1,

wherein a rhenium catalyst comprising Re_2O_7 on γ-Al_2O_3 or on mixed supports selected from among SiO_2/Al_2O_3, $B_2O_3/SiO_2/Al_2O_3$ or Fe_2O_3/Al_2O_3 is used in the fourth process step d).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1,

wherein a hydrocarbon stream comprising or consisting of isobutene and linear butenes is used as starting material in process step a).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1,

wherein a C_4 fraction selected from among raffinate I, selectively hydrogenated C_4 fraction from a cracker, C_4 fractions from FCC plants or C_4-olefins prepared by the Fischer-Tropsch synthesis is used as starting material.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 7,

wherein industrial C_4 fractions having an isobutene content of greater than 3% by weight are used as starting material.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 6 to 8~~ claim 6,

wherein 3-methyl-1-butene is separated off from the 1-olefin fraction comprising olefins having 5 carbon atoms which is obtained after the third process step c).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A mixture which comprises at least one olefin having from 8 to 12 carbon atoms and has been prepared by a process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Isooctene prepared by a process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 using a C_4 fraction having an isobutene content of greater than 3% by weight as starting material.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The ~~use of~~ method of using a mixture as claimed in claim 10 ~~or of isooctene as claimed in claim 11~~ for preparing alcohols and/or aldehydes.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method of using a mixture as claimed in claim 12 for preparing plasticizer alcohols.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method of using a mixture as claimed in claim 12 for preparing isononanol.